

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present application, claims 1-8, 11-25, 27, 34-37 and 40-47 are pending. Claims 1-8, 10-25, 27, 34-37, 40 and 42-47 are rejected. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 14, 23 and 34-37 have been amended, and claims 10 and 46 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

The support for the amendments to claims 6, 11, 23 and 35 may at least be found at least at page 13, par. [0060] through page 14, par. [0065]; page 16, par. [0072] through page 20, par. [0088]; and, in the specification, claims and figures as originally filed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 17, 23, 24, 27, 34-37, 42, 44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aoki United States Patent Publication No. 2001/0056310.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 14, 20, 21, 37 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Madden et al. (U.S.P.N. 6,516,239).

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 8, 18, 25, 40 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki as applied to claims 2, 7, 12, 17 and 24 above, and further in view of Pappas (U.S.P.N. 6,338,045).

The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 19, 43 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12 above, and further in view of Pappas.

The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Madden et al. as applied to claims 2 and 14 above, and further in view of Pappas.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 17, 23, 24, 27, 34-37, 42, 44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aoki (United States Patent Publication No. 2001/0056310).

In framing this objection, the Examiner refers to the flowchart of Figure 3 of Aoki, which is described and taught at paragraphs [0042]-[0054] of Aoki.

Aoki does not teach all of the claim elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 23 and 34-37. Aoki fails to at least teach that the work slip generated by the method and system taught therein provides information such as part identifier information, work instructions, etc. for use in a rule-based generated bill of material as recited in Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 23 and 34-37.

For the aforementioned mentioned reasons, Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 23 and 34-37, and those claims dependent thereon, are not anticipated by Aoki under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants' respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 17, 23, 24, 27, 34-37, 42, 44 and 46.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 14, 20, 21, 37 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Madden et al. (U.S.P.N. 6,516,239).

In framing his objection, the Examiner refers to the description and teachings of Madden at col. 4, lines 10-54; col. 15, lines 35-55; col. 16, lines 29-64; and, col. 22, line 47-col. 23, line 17.

Madden does not teach all of the claim elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 2, 14 and 37. Madden fails to at least teach using part identifier information, work instructions, etc. for use in a rule-based generated bill of materials according to the system and method taught therein.

For the aforementioned mentioned reasons, Applicants' amended independent claim 2, 14 and 37, and those claims dependent thereupon, are not anticipated by Madden under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants' respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and the reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 14, 20, 21, 37 and 40.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 8, 18, 25, 40 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Aoki as applied to claims 2, 7, 12, 17 and 24 above, and further in view of Pappas.

Claims 4, 8, 18, 25, 40 and 45 are dependent upon Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23. Aoki does not teach or suggest all of the claim elements of

Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23. Aoki fails to at least teach or suggest that the work slip generated by the method and system taught therein provides information such as part identifier information, work instructions, etc. for use in a rule-based generated bill of material as recited in Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23.

Pappas utilizes a predefined bill of material, referred to as a "BOM", a master parts list, or parts catalog to define what constitute the valid parts in an aircraft. As a result, Pappas must specifically or manually generate a bill of material, or a set of said BOMs, against which the master parts list, parts catalog or the predefined bill of material will validate. In contrast to the teachings of Pappas, Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23 recite a rule-based generated bill of material. Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23 incorporate the use of an infinite number of bills of materials since rules are utilized to create the potential valid bill of materials as opposed to using predefined bills of materials, master parts lists, or parts catalogs. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize this distinguishing point of fact as certain aircraft parts are maintained differently throughout their respective useful service lives.

Aoki does not teach, suggest or provide any desirability to alter its teachings in order to incorporate a rule-based generated bill of materials in its system and method taught therein. One of ordinary skill in the art would not consider seeking out the Pappas reference in order to combine with Aoki and teach all of the elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23.

For the aforementioned mentioned reasons, Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 23, and the claims which depend thereupon, are patentable over Aoki in view of Pappas under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants' respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the reconsideration and allowance of claims 4, 8, 18, 25, 40 and 45.

The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 19, 43 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Aoki as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12 above, and further in view of Pappas.

Claims 15, 16, 19, 43 and 47 are dependent upon Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12. Aoki does not teach or suggest all of the claim elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12. Aoki fails to at least teach or suggest that the work slip generated by the method and system taught therein provides information such as part identifier information, work instructions, etc. for use in a rule-based generated bill of material as recited in Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12.

Pappas utilizes a predefined bill of material, referred to as a "BOM", a master parts list, or parts catalog to define what constitute the valid parts in an aircraft. As a result, Pappas must specifically or manually generate a bill of material, or a set of said BOMs, against which the master parts list, parts catalog or the predefined bill of material will validate. In contrast to the teachings of Pappas, Applicants' amended

independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12 recite a rule-based generated bill of material. Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12 incorporate the use of an infinite number of bills of materials since rules are utilized to create the potential valid bill of materials as opposed to using predefined bills of materials, master parts lists, or parts catalogs. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize this distinguishing point of fact as certain aircraft parts are maintained differently throughout their respective useful service lives.

Aoki does not teach, suggest or provide any desirability to alter its teachings in order to incorporate a rule-based generated bill of materials in its system and method taught therein. One of ordinary skill in the art would not consider seeking out the Pappas reference in order to combine with Aoki and teach all of the elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12.

For the aforementioned mentioned reasons, Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12, and the claims which depend thereupon, are patentable over Aoki in view of Pappas under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants' respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the reconsideration and allowance of claims 15, 16, 19, 43 and 47.

The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Madden et al. as applied to claims 2 and 14 above, and further in view of Pappas.

Madden does not teach or suggest all of the claim elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 2, 14 and 37. Madden fails to at least teach or suggest using part identifier information, work instructions, etc. for use in a rule-based generated bill of materials according to the system and method taught therein.

Pappas utilizes a predefined bill of material, referred to as a "BOM", a master parts list, or parts catalog to define what constitute the valid parts in an aircraft. As a result, Pappas must specifically or manually generate a bill of material, or a set of said BOMs, against which the master parts list, parts catalog or the predefined bill of material will validate. In contrast to the teachings of Pappas, Applicants' amended independent claims 2 and 14 recite a rule-based generated bill of material. Applicants' amended independent claims 2 and 14 incorporate the use of an infinite number of bills of materials since rules are utilized to create the potential valid bill of materials as opposed to using predefined bills of materials, master parts lists, or parts catalogs. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize this distinguishing point of fact as certain aircraft parts are maintained differently throughout their respective useful service lives.

Aoki does not teach, suggest or provide any desirability to alter its teachings in order to incorporate a rule-based generated bill of materials in its system and method taught therein. One of ordinary skill in the art would not consider seeking out the Pappas reference in order to combine with Aoki and teach all of the elements of Applicants' amended independent claims 2 and 14.

For the aforementioned mentioned reasons, Applicants' claims 22 and 43, which ultimately depends from amended independent claims 2 and 14, are patentable over Aoki in view of Pappas under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants' respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the reconsideration and allowance of claims 22 and 43.

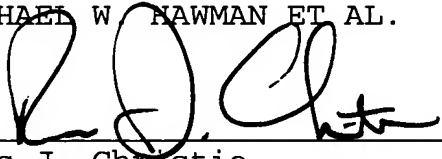
Conclusion

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

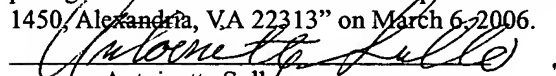
Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL W. HAWMAN ET AL.

By 
Ross J. Christie
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 47,492
Tel: (203) 777-6628 x.116
Fax: (203) 865-0297

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 6, 2006.


Antoinette Sullo